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INFO RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0254

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 001109

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IO/UNESCO--KELLY SIEKMANKO  
PARIS PLEASE PASS TO US MISSION TO UNESCO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [SCUL](#) [UNESCO](#) [CI](#)  
SUBJECT: CHILE EAGER FOR INFORMATION ON UNESCO CANDIDATES

REF: STATE 130914

Classified By: E/Pol Chief Juan Alsace for reason 1.4 (b)

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Jaime Acuna, Director of the MFA's Multilateral Affairs Department, on December 17.

Acuna said that he was aware of the Egyptian and Brazilian candidates, and understood that the Egyptian candidate was the front-runner. Acuna was eager for U.S. input and listened attentively to reftel points. He remarked that Hosni's statement about burning Israeli books in Egyptian libraries was indeed inimical to UNESCO values, but also downplayed the remark, saying it was likely made only to gain domestic political capital. Acuna was not aware that Eastern Europe and Latin America also have potential claims on the UNESCO position, and said he would consider the U.S. position carefully and discuss with others at the MFA. Post will report any further response.

SIMONS